GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4298
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012
WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS
Baitha Shri Kameshwar ;Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Saroj Smt. Sushila;Upadhyay Seema;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds under drinking water and sanitation schemes have been withheld for want of no objection certificates and/or utilization certificates from the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of funds withheld, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has decided to release the amount under these schemes only after receiving No Objection Certificates/Utilization Certificates from the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in order that these schemes are not affected adversely due to non-availability of funds?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to(d): Yes Sir. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation administers two centrally sponsored schemes viz., National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) and Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)(erstwhile Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)). Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) some states had high unspent balances as on 1.4.2012. A part of the 1st installment of funds have been withheld till the states achieve progress in utilizing the available funds. The details of the States and the amount withheld are at Annexure I. As regards NBA, the State wise details of funds not released as first installment due to non-submission of requisite documents as per NBA guidelines including the Utilisation Certificate for releases made during previous year is at Annexure II.

(e): Since the amount withheld is due to availability of high unspent balances, the question of non-availability of funds does not arise. In order to exercise prudence in expenditure, the States are required to submit necessary documents against the funds released to them. However, States are consistently reminded to submit the requisite documents through letters, video conferencing, State meetings etc.